

ON NON-CUT SETS OF LOCALLY CONNECTED CONTINUA

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ON NON-CUT SETS OF LOCALLY CONNECTED CONTINUA

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W. L. Ayres¹ and H. M. Gehman² have proved independently that if a locally connected continuum S contains a non-cut point p , there exists an arbitrarily small region R containing p and such that $S - R$ is connected. Our paper is concerned with certain generalizations of this theorem.

We shall consider a space S which is a locally connected continuum and contains a closed set P such that $S - P$ is connected. We show that under these hypotheses P can be enclosed in an open set R , the sum of a finite number of regions, whose complement is a locally connected continuum. We show further that if there exists a family of sets $\mathfrak{F}$ no element of which separates $S - P$, then there exist two open sets R and R' (with $R \supset R' \supset P$) of the above type and having the property that no element of $\mathfrak{F}$ contained in $S - R$ separates $S - R'$. When the elements of $\mathfrak{F}$ are single points, it is possible to choose $R' = R$; but this is not possible in the more general case.

We close by showing that if S is not separated by any element of $\mathfrak{F}$ plus any set of n points, and if Q is the sum of n sets of sufficiently small diameter and having sufficiently great mutual distances, then the set $S - Q$ has at most one component whose diameter is greater than a preassigned positive quantity, and this component is not separated by any element of $\mathfrak{F}$ at a sufficiently great distance from Q .

We recall some well known results.³

Let M be a locally connected continuum. Then:

- (1) M is a metric space having property S .⁴
- (2) M is the sum of a finite number of arbitrarily small connected

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¹ See W. L. Ayres, *On continua which are disconnected by the omission of a point and some related problems*, Monatshefte für Mathematik und Physik vol. 36 (1929) pp. 135-147. The theorem quoted here corresponds to Theorem 2 p. 149.

² See H. M. Gehman, *Concerning certain types of non-cut points, with an application to continuous curves*, Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. vol. 14 (1928) pp. 431-433. Theorem 4 p. 432 is essentially that quoted here.

³ See G. T. Whyburn, *Analytic topology*, Amer. Math. Soc. Colloquium Publications, vol. 28 (1942) p. 20 ff.

⁴ A set is said to have property S if for any $\epsilon > 0$ it can be expressed as the sum of a finite number of connected sets of diameter less than ϵ . The property was first introduced by W. Sierpinski in his paper *Sur une condition pour qu'un continu soit une courbe jordanienne*, Fund. Math. vol. 1 (1920) pp. 44-60.

subsets each having property S . Furthermore these subsets may be chosen either as open sets or as closed sets.

(3) If $N \subset M$ and N has property S , then any set N_0 such that $N \subset N_0 \subset \bar{N}$ is locally connected.

From the preceding results follows:

LEMMA 1. If N is any subset of a locally connected continuum M and V is any δ -neighborhood of N , then there exists an open set U that contains N , has property S , and is such that $\bar{U}$ is the sum of a finite number of locally connected continua contained in V .

It may clearly be supposed that every component of U contains a point of N .

Throughout this paper we shall deal with a compact metric space S , which we suppose to be a locally connected continuum. We denote by $\delta(A)$ the diameter of any set A , and by $V_\epsilon(A)$ the ϵ -neighborhood of A .

We shall require the following lemma, which was pointed out to the author by Dr. D. W. Hall. Its proof follows directly from the definitions involved.

LEMMA 2. Let M be any locally connected subcontinuum of S . Then if T is the sum of any set of components of $S - M$, the set $K = S - T$ is a locally connected continuum.

Using methods very similar to those of Ayres¹ and Gehman,² we obtain the following generalization of their theorem.

THEOREM 1. Let P be any closed set such that $S - P$ is connected. Then for any $\epsilon > 0$ there exists an open set R such that (1) $P \subset R \subset V_\epsilon(P)$, (2) the set R is the sum of a finite number of regions, each of which intersects P , and (3) $S - R$ is a locally connected continuum.

PROOF. Let $R_1 = V_\delta(P)$ and $R_2 = V_{\delta'}(P)$, where $0 < \delta' < \delta \leq \epsilon$. Then, since S is locally connected, at most a finite number of components of $S - R_2$ intersect $S - R_1$; let these be $K_1, K_2, \dots, K_n$, and choose $p_i \in K_i(R_1 - R_2)$ for $i = 1, \dots, n$. Since P is closed, $S - P$ is a region, and we can find arcs $p_1 p_i \subset (S - P)$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$; thus we construct the connected set $C = \sum_{i=1}^n (K_i + p_1 p_i)$.

Taking $d = \rho(P, C)$, we conclude from Lemma 1 that there exists a locally connected continuum V contained in $V_d(C)$ and therefore disjoint with P . Now let R be the sum of all components of $S - V$ that contain points of P . It follows from the local connectivity of S that R is open. To prove the theorem, we must show that R satisfies the conditions (1), (2), and (3).

Obviously $P \subset R$. On the other hand, $R \subset (S - V) \subset (S - C) \subset R_1 \subset V_\epsilon(P)$. Thus R satisfies (1).

To see that (2) holds, we note that $\rho(P, S - R) > 0$, because R is open. It follows from Lemma 1 that there exists an open set R_3 , the sum of a finite number of regions, such that $P \subset R_3 \subset R$. We see that R is likewise the sum of a finite number of regions, each of which intersects P , for every component of R contains a point of P and thus a component of R_3 .

Applying Lemma 2 with $M = V$ and $T = R$ shows that $S - R$ is a locally connected continuum. Consequently R satisfies (3), and the proof is complete.

The following example shows that Theorem 1 loses its validity if the requirement that P be closed is dropped.

EXAMPLE. Take for S the closed rectangle in the xy -plane bounded by the lines $x = \pm 2$, $y = \pm 1$. Divide the rectangle into four rectangles by drawing the lines $x = 0$, $x = \pm 1$. Denote by P' the set consisting of the two end rectangles (open or closed), the segment $x = 0$, $-1 \leq y \leq 1$, and the curve $y = \sin(1/x)$, $-1 \leq x \leq 1$; thus P' is connected but not locally connected. We see that Theorem 1 does not hold for $P = S - P'$, for no set having the properties of R can be found corresponding to $\epsilon < 1$.

THEOREM 2. *Let P be any closed set such that $S - P$ is connected, and suppose that $\mathfrak{F}$ is a family of subsets of S such that $S - (P + Q)$ is connected for each $Q \in \mathfrak{F}$. Then, given $\epsilon > 0$, there exist open sets R and R' , each of which is the sum of a finite number of regions intersecting P , such that (1) $P \subset R' \subset R \subset V_\epsilon(P)$, (2) the sets $S - R$ and $S - R'$ are locally connected continua, and (3) if $Q \in \mathfrak{F}$ and $Q \subset (S - R)$, then $S - (R' + Q)$ is connected.*

PROOF. We first select an open set $R \supset P$ which has the same properties as the R of Theorem 1. Next we choose another open set $R_1 \supset P$, having the same properties as R , and such that $\bar{R}_1 \subset R$. Then all components of $R - R_1$ have limit points in both $S - R$ and $\bar{R}_1$, since $S - R_1$ is connected and R is the sum of a finite number of regions, each intersecting P and in one of which any component of $R - R_1$ must lie. It follows from the local connectivity of S that the number of such components is finite.

Now, if any two components of $R - R_1$ lie in some component C of $R - P$, we connect them by a simple arc in C ; this is possible because C is a region. We define V_1 as the sum of $S - R_1$ and all such arcs.

Clearly V_1 is connected. Moreover, if $Q \in \mathfrak{F}$ and $Q \subset (S - R)$, then $V_1 - Q$ is connected. For suppose that x and y are points of $V_1 - Q$.

Then Q cannot separate x from $R-R_1$ in V_1 . This is obvious if $x \in RV_1$; if $x \in (V_1-R)$, we see (since $R-R_1$ separates x from $S-V_1$ in S) that Q cannot separate x from $R-R_1$ in V_1 without separating them in S , contrary to hypothesis. Thus there exists a component X of $R-R_1$ such that x and X lie in the same component of V_1-Q . Similarly, there exists a component Y of $R-R_1$ such that y and Y lie in the same component of V_1-Q .

If X and Y are in the same component of $R-P$, there exists an arc in RV_1 connecting X and Y . On the other hand, if X and Y lie in different components of $R-P$, they must lie in the same component of V_1-Q . For suppose that $X \subset AB$, where A is a component of $R-P$ and B is a component of V_1-Q . Then A is closed in $R-P$, while B is closed in V_1-Q . Thus the sets $(A+B)\bar{R}_1 = A\bar{R}_1$ and $A+B-R = B-R$ are closed in $S-(P+Q)$. From the construction of V_1 we see that $A(R-R_1) \subset B(R-R_1)$, and it follows that $(A+B)(\bar{R}-R_1)$ is closed in $S-(P+Q)$. Hence $A+B$, being the sum of three sets closed in $S-(P+Q)$, is closed in $S-(P+Q)$. Now suppose $Y \not\subset A+B$. Then we can find another set $A'+B' \supset Y$ of the same form as, and disjoint with, $A+B$. In this way it follows that $S-(P+Q)$ is the sum of a finite number of disjoint sets closed in $S-(P+Q)$, which is impossible since $S-(P+Q)$ is connected. Thus X and Y , and therefore x and y , lie in the same component of V_1-Q .

By Lemma 1, there exists a locally connected continuum V' containing V_1 and disjoint with P . We denote by R' the sum of all components of $S-V'$ that contain points of P . It follows from Lemmas 1 and 2, as in the proof of Theorem 1, that R' is the sum of a finite number of regions and that $S-R'$ is a locally connected continuum. Moreover, if $Q \in \mathfrak{F}$ and $Q \subset (S-R)$, we conclude, since $(S-R')-V_1 \subset R_1$, that $S-(R'+Q)$ is connected. This completes the proof.

The question naturally arises whether, under the hypotheses of Theorem 2, it is possible to find a single open set T containing P and playing the parts of both R and R' in that theorem. The following example shows that such a set T cannot in general be found.

EXAMPLE. Take for S the plane set consisting of two line segments, a_0p and b_0p , together with a sequence of parallel lines $a_0b_0, a_1b_1, a_2b_2, \dots$, where $a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots$ and $b_0, b_1, b_2, \dots$ are sequences of points, converging monotonically to p , on the lines a_0p and b_0p , respectively. We denote by c_n the midpoint of the segment a_nb_n for $n=0, 1, 2, \dots$.

Now, take for P the point p and for $\mathfrak{F}$ the family of all pairs of points of S not separating $S-p$. Let R be any region containing p (but disjoint with a_1b_1). Then there exists a greatest integer $n \geq 1$

for which $a_nb_n \subset (S-R)$. It follows that the pair of points $(c_n + a_{n-1})$ separates $S-R$. However, the set $S - (p + c_n + a_{n-1})$ is connected; hence $(c_n + a_{n-1}) \in \mathfrak{F}$. Thus R cannot be taken as T .

However, the stronger conclusion can be drawn when $\mathfrak{F}$ is a family of single points, as we now show.

THEOREM 3. *Let P be any closed set such that $S-P$ is connected. Suppose F is a set such that $S - (P+q)$ is connected for $q \in F$. Then for any $\epsilon > 0$ there exists an open set $R \supset P$, contained in $V_\epsilon(P)$ and consisting of a finite number of regions, such that $S-R$ is a locally connected continuum and $S - (R+q)$ is connected for $q \in F$.*

PROOF. By Theorem 2, there exist open sets R_1 and R_2 , each consisting of a finite number of regions, such that (1) $P \subset R_2 \subset R_1 \subset V_\epsilon(P)$, (2) the sets $S-R_1$ and $S-R_2$ are locally connected continua, and (3) $S - (R_2+q)$ is connected for $q \in F(S-R_1)$. We write $V_2 = S - R_2$.

Now, for $y \in V_2R_1F$ we define K_y as the set consisting of y plus the component of $V_2 - y$ containing $S-R_1$. Then we let

$$V = \prod_{y \in V_2R_1F} K_y, \quad R = S - V = \sum_{y \in V_2R_1F} (S - K_y).$$

For any $y \in V_2R_1F$, the set $S - K_y$ is the sum of a finite number of regions. For suppose $x \in (S - K_y)$. Since $S - y$ is a region, there exists an arc $xr \subset (S - y)$ for all $r \in R_2$. If there exists a point $x_1 \in K_y$ on xr , there exists a first such point x_2 , since K_y is closed. The arc xx_2 is not contained in V_2 , since x and x_2 lie in different components of $V_2 - y$; thus there exists a point $x_3 \in (S - V_2) = R_2$ on xx_2 . In any case, therefore, there exists in $S - K_y$ an arc joining x to some point of R_2 . It follows that $S - K_y$ is the sum of a finite number of regions, each containing at least one component of R_2 . Since this is true for all $y \in V_2R_1F$, the same must be true of R .

The set V is an A -set⁵ in V_2 . For suppose otherwise. Then, since V is closed, there exists an arc xqy in V_2 spanning V . Since $q \notin V$, there exists a point $z \in V_2R_1F$ such that $q \notin K_z$. But $x+y \subset K_z$. Therefore z must separate both x and y from q in V_2 , which is impossible. Since V is an A -set, it is a locally connected continuum.

Moreover, V has no cut points in F . For let $x \in V$, $y \in V$, and $q \in VF$. If $q \in (V - R_1)$, there exists an arc $xy \subset (V_2 - q)$, because q is not a cut point of the locally connected continuum V_2 ; since V is an A -set in V_2 , the arc $xy \subset (V - q)$. If $q \in VR_1$, we have $x+y \subset K_q$ and hence there exists an arc $xy \subset (K_q - q)$; again $xy \subset (V - q)$.

⁵ See Kuratowski and Whyburn, *Sur les éléments cycliques et leurs applications*, Fund. Math. vol. 16 (1930) pp. 305-331.

We have now shown that R is the sum of a finite number of regions, that $S - R$ is a locally connected continuum, and that $S - (R + q)$ is connected for any $q \in F$. Thus the proof is complete.

THEOREM 4. *Suppose that no m points separate S , and that $\mathfrak{F}$ is a family of sets such that $S - (Q + \sum_{i=1}^m p_i)$ is connected for any $Q \in \mathfrak{F}$ and any m points $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_m$ of S . Then corresponding to any $\epsilon > 0$ there exists a number $\delta > 0$ such that if $P_1, P_2, \dots, P_m$ are m sets contained in S , each of diameter less than δ , while $\rho(P_i, P_j) > 2\epsilon$ for $0 \leq i \leq j \leq m$, the set $S - \sum_{i=1}^m P_i$ has at most one component K of diameter greater than ϵ , and (if K exists) $K - Q$ is connected for every $Q \in \mathfrak{F}$ for which $\rho(Q, \sum_{i=1}^m P_i) > \epsilon$.*

PROOF. Let $\mathfrak{F}^{(1)}$ be the family of sets having as elements all sets of the type $Q + Q_1$, where $Q \in \mathfrak{F}$ and Q_1 is any set of at most $m - 1$ points. Then if $F \in \mathfrak{F}^{(1)}$, the set $S - (F + p)$ is connected for every $p \in S$.

Using Theorem 2, we obtain for every point $x \in S$ two regions V_x and W_x , each of diameter less than ϵ , such that $x \in V_x \subset W_x$, while the sets $S - V_x$ and $S - W_x$ are locally connected continua, and $S - (F + V_x)$ is connected if $F \in \mathfrak{F}^{(1)}$ and $F \subset (S - W_x)$. We then choose a third region $U_x \supset x$ such that $\bar{U}_x \subset V_x$. By the Heine-Borel theorem, there exists a finite subfamily $\{U_1, \dots, U_{n_1}\}$ of the family $\{U_x\}$ such that $S = \sum_{i=1}^{n_1} U_i$. In each set U_i ($i = 1, 2, \dots, n_1$) we choose a point x_i for which $U_{x_i} = U_i$ and define $V_i = V_{x_i}$, $W_i = W_{x_i}$. Let $\delta_1 = \min_{i=1, \dots, n_1} \rho(U_i, S - V_i)$.

Now denote by $\mathfrak{F}^{(2)}$ the family of sets having as elements all sets of the type $Q + Q_2$, where $Q \in \mathfrak{F}$ and Q_2 is any set of at most $m - 2$ points, and for $i = 1, 2, \dots, n_1$ define $\mathfrak{F}_i^{(2)}$ as the largest subfamily of $\mathfrak{F}^{(2)}$ all of whose elements are contained in $S - W_i$. Then if $F \in \mathfrak{F}_i^{(2)}$, we see that $(S - V_i) - (F + p)$ is connected for every $p \in (S - W_i)$.

Applying Theorem 2 to the locally connected continuum $S - V_i$, we obtain for every point $x \in (S - W_i)$ ($i = 1, \dots, n_1$) three regions U_{ix} , V_{ix} , and W_{ix} , each of diameter less than ϵ , in the locally connected continuum $S - V_i$, such that $x \in U_{ix} \subset \bar{U}_{ix} \subset V_{ix} \subset W_{ix}$ and $S - (V_i + V_{ix})$ is a locally connected continuum, while $(S - V_i) - (F + V_{ix})$ is connected if $F \in \mathfrak{F}_i^{(2)}$ and $F \subset (S - W_{ix})$. Writing

$$T_i = E_x [\rho(x, W_i) \geq \epsilon], \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n_1,$$

we see that if $x \in T_i$, the set W_{ix} is contained in the interior of $S - W_i$ and is therefore a region in S . It follows by the Heine-Borel theorem that the family of regions $\{U_{ix}\}$ (for all $x \in T_i$) contains a finite subfamily $\{U_{i1}, U_{i2}, \dots, U_{in_2(i)}\}$ such that

$$T_i \subset \sum_{j=1}^{n_2(i)} U_{ij} \subset (S - \overline{W}_i), \quad i = 1, \dots, n_1.$$

We write for simplicity $n_2 = \max_{i=1, \dots, n_1} [n_2(i)]$, and by making repetitions if necessary we obtain n_1 families, each containing n_2 regions and having the above properties. Regions V_{ij} and W_{ij} are then selected for $i = 1, \dots, n_1, j = 1, \dots, n_2$ as in the preceding case. We let

$$\delta_2 = \min_{i=1, \dots, n_1; j=1, \dots, n_2} \rho(U_{ij}, S - V_{ij}).$$

We proceed by induction as follows. Suppose that for some $k < m$ we have found three sets of regions $\{U_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_k}\}$, $\{V_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_k}\}$, and $\{W_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_k}\}$ (where $i_j = 1, 2, \dots, n_j; j = 1, 2, \dots, k$), having the following properties:

- (1) $\overline{U}_{i_1 \dots i_k} \subset V_{i_1 \dots i_k} \subset W_{i_1 \dots i_k}$;
- (2) $\delta(W_{i_1 \dots i_k}) < \epsilon$;
- (3) $S - \sum_{j=1}^k V_{i_1 \dots i_j}$ is a locally connected continuum;
- (4) $T_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_{k-1}} \subset \sum_{l_k=1}^{n_k} U_{i_1 \dots i_k} \subset (S - \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} \overline{W}_{i_1 \dots i_j})$,

where

$$T_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_{k-1}} = E_x [\rho(x, W_{i_1 \dots i_j}) \geq \epsilon \text{ for } j = 1, 2, \dots, k-1];$$

(5) if $(Q + \sum_{i=1}^{m-k} q_i) \subset (S - \sum_{j=1}^k W_{i_1 \dots i_j})$, where $Q \in \mathfrak{F}$ and $q_i \in S$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots, m-k$, then the set $(S - \sum_{j=1}^k V_{i_1 \dots i_j}) - (Q + \sum_{i=1}^{m-k} q_i)$ is connected.

In order to take the next step, we define $\mathfrak{F}^{(k+1)}$ as the family of sets having as elements all sets of the type $Q + Q_{k+1}$, where $Q \in \mathfrak{F}$ and Q_{k+1} is any set of at most $m - (k+1)$ points. Then we denote by $\mathfrak{F}_{i_1 \dots i_k}^{(k+1)}$ ($i_j = 1, 2, \dots, n_j; j = 1, 2, \dots, k$) the largest subfamily of $\mathfrak{F}^{(k+1)}$ all of whose elements are contained in $S - \sum_{j=1}^k W_{i_1 \dots i_j}$. It follows from (5) that $(S - \sum_{j=1}^k V_{i_1 \dots i_j}) - (F + p)$ is connected for all $F \in \mathfrak{F}_{i_1 \dots i_k}^{(k+1)}$ and $p \in (S - \sum_{j=1}^k W_{i_1 \dots i_j})$.

Applying Theorem 2 to the locally connected continuum $S - \sum_{j=1}^k V_{i_1 \dots i_j}$, we obtain for any point $x \in (S - \sum_{j=1}^k W_{i_1 \dots i_j})$ three regions $U_{i_1 \dots i_k x}$, $V_{i_1 \dots i_k x}$, and $W_{i_1 \dots i_k x}$, each of diameter less than ϵ , in the locally connected continuum $S - \sum_{j=1}^k V_{i_1 \dots i_j}$, such that

$$x \in U_{i_1 \dots i_k x} \subset \overline{U}_{i_1 \dots i_k x} \subset V_{i_1 \dots i_k x} \subset W_{i_1 \dots i_k x}$$

and $S - \sum_{j=1}^k V_{i_1 \dots i_j} - V_{i_1 \dots i_k x}$ is a locally connected continuum, while $(S - \sum_{j=1}^k V_{i_1 \dots i_j}) - (F + V_{i_1 \dots i_k x})$ is connected if $F \in \mathfrak{F}_{i_1 \dots i_k}^{(k+1)}$ and $F \subset (S - W_{i_1 \dots i_k x})$. Then, defining $T_{i_1 \dots i_k}$ as in (4), we see as before that $U_{i_1 \dots i_k x}$ is a region in S ; using the Heine-Borel theorem,

we deduce the existence of a finite family of regions $\{U_{i_1 \dots i_{k+1}}\}$ ($i_{k+1} = 1, 2, \dots, n_{k+1}$) such that

$$T_{i_1 \dots i_k} \subset \sum_{i_{k+1}=1}^{n_{k+1}} U_{i_1 \dots i_{k+1}} \subset \left(S - \sum_{j=1}^k \overline{W}_{i_1 \dots i_j} \right).$$

Selecting families of regions $\{V_{i_1 \dots i_{k+1}}\}$ and $\{W_{i_1 \dots i_{k+1}}\}$ as before, we obtain three sets of regions for which (1)–(5) hold with k replaced by $k+1$.

We carry out this construction for $k = 1, 2, \dots, m$, and let

$$\delta_k = \min_{i_j=1, \dots, n_j; j=1, \dots, k} \rho(U_{i_1 \dots i_k}, S - V_{i_1 \dots i_k}), \quad k = 1, \dots, m.$$

We shall now show that the theorem holds with $\delta = \min_{k=1, \dots, m} \delta_k$. Consider any family of sets $\{P_1, P_2, \dots, P_m\}$ satisfying the conditions of the theorem. Since $S = \sum_{i=1}^{n_1} U_i$, there exists a positive integer $i_1 \leq n_1$ such that $P_1 U_{i_1} \neq 0$; then since $\delta(P_1) < \delta \leq \delta_1$, we have $P_1 \subset V_{i_1}$. Since $\rho(P_1, P_2) > 2\epsilon$, it is clear that $P_2 \subset T_{i_1}$, and hence there exists a positive integer $i_2 \leq n_2$ such that $P_2 U_{i_1 i_2} \neq 0$; it follows that $P_2 \subset V_{i_1 i_2}$. Now suppose that for $j = 1, 2, \dots, k < m$ there exist numbers $i_j \leq n_j$ such that $P_j \subset V_{i_1 \dots i_j}$. Since $\rho(P_j, P_{k+1}) > 2\epsilon$ for $j = 1, \dots, k$, we see that $P_{k+1} \subset T_{i_1 \dots i_k}$; thus $P_{k+1} U_{i_1 \dots i_k i_{k+1}} \neq 0$ for some $i_{k+1} \leq n_{k+1}$, whence $P_{k+1} \subset V_{i_1 \dots i_k i_{k+1}}$. Proceeding in this way, we find positive integers $i_j \leq n_j$ such that $P_j \subset V_{i_1 \dots i_j}$ for $j = 1, 2, \dots, m$.

We conclude from property (5) above that $S - \sum_{j=1}^m V_{i_1 \dots i_j}$ is connected, and hence must be contained in a single component K of $S - \sum_{i=1}^m P_i$. Any other component of $S - \sum_{i=1}^m P_i$ must therefore be contained in one of the regions $V_{i_1 \dots i_j}$; thus the diameter of such a component must be less than ϵ .

Finally, suppose that $Q \in \mathfrak{F}$ and $\rho(Q, \sum_{i=1}^m P_i) > \epsilon$. Then by (2) above, $Q \subset (S - \sum_{j=1}^m W_{i_1 \dots i_j})$; by (5), $(S - \sum_{j=1}^m V_{i_1 \dots i_j} - Q)$ is connected. It follows that $K - Q$ is connected.

REMARK. If no n ($> m$) points separate S , we may take $\mathfrak{F}$ as the family of all sets of $n - m$ points; then, under the above hypotheses, the component K of $S - P$ (where $P = \sum_{i=1}^m P_i$) is not separated by any set of $n - m$ points $q_1, q_2, \dots, q_{n-m}$ such that $\rho(\sum_{i=1}^{n-m} q_i, P) > \epsilon$.

